

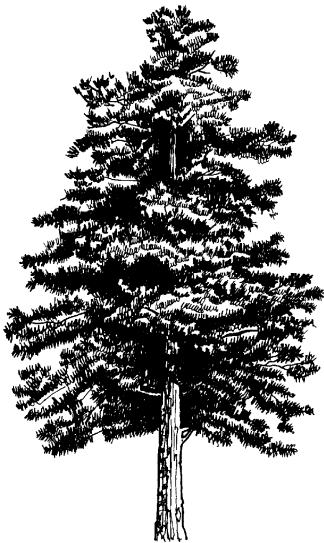


San Juan Tree Farmer



A Colorado State Forest Service—Durango District Newsletter for Forest Landowners.

July 30, 2012



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San Juan Conservation District's Annual Meeting and Fall Forest Forum

With informed and appropriate management, private family forest owners can maintain a sustainable, healthy, and productive forest. Whether you are managing your forest for wildlife habitat, recreation, livestock grazing or timber production, you'll want to see the latest in forest management. Don't miss your opportunity to engage with local and regional forestry professionals as they discuss and share their expertise.

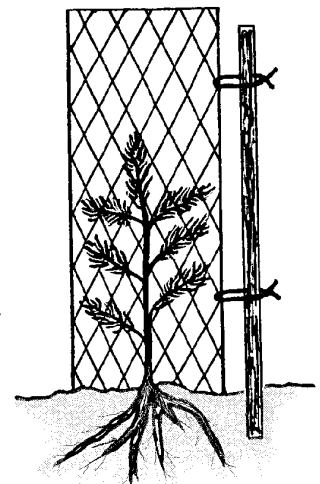
Mark your calendar for Thursday, August 23rd from 9 am—3 pm for the "Fall Forest Forum and Annual Meeting" of the San Juan Conservation District. The event will be held at the CSU Extension office on the Archuleta County Fairgrounds (344 Hwy 84). The day-long educational event is free, but you must RSVP with the San Juan Conservation District (970-731-3615) to ensure there are plenty of lunches for all that attend. The program includes an update on the San Juan Conservation District's accomplishment, a tour of J.R. Fords Biomass Project Site, a field demonstration of how to fell a tree, chainsaw safety, learning how to be FireWise, an update on the forest on public lands, and tips on managing your private lands including Best Management Practices to protect Water Quality.

Advice and helpful tips for managing your forested land will be provided by the following sponsors: San Juan Conservation District, Wildfire Mitigation Professionals Association, J.R. Ford, FireWise of Southwest Colorado, US Forest Service and Colorado State Forest Service.

Submitted by Liz Haynes, Archuleta County Director, Extension Agent—4-H, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Archuleta County Extension Office.

Deadline for ordering conifer seedlings for reforestation is Monday, August 13th.

The CSFS nursery has produced a "special crop" of ponderosa pine seedlings grown from local seed collected from the San Juan region of southwest Colorado. These seedlings should be superior in their ability to adapt to local soil, climate, and growing conditions. If planting seedlings is in your plans and you are confident that soil moisture will continue to increase this fall, this may be the year to take advantage of seedlings grown from a local seed source. Delivery of the seedlings to the CSFS Durango district office is anticipated in mid-September. Other conifer species are also available as indicated on the "2012 Application for Conservation Seedling Trees" and are available in lots of 30 container-grown seedlings. Please contact the CSFS Durango District office @ 247-5250 for additional information or to place an order.



Organizational changes for Colo. State Forest Service & Colo. Dept. of Public Safety



For Immediate Release
July 19, 2012

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Colorado State Forest Service Remains the Lead State Agency for Forestry, Wildfire Mitigation Information

FORT COLLINS, Colo. – Following recent changes related to the state’s wildfire command and control duties, the Colorado State Forest Service continues to be the lead state agency providing forest stewardship and wildfire mitigation assistance to private landowners.

On July 1, wildfire management and prescribed fire responsibilities transferred from the CSFS to the Colorado Department of Public Safety – centralizing the state’s fire management functions into a single, statewide point of contact for wildfire management. The transition occurred after the Colorado General Assembly passed a bill in the 2012 session, following a joint recommendation from Gov. John Hickenlooper and Colorado State University President Tony Frank.

“This transition will allow the Colorado State Forest Service to concentrate even greater efforts on forest management and forestry outreach objectives,” said Frank. “We look forward to strengthening our focus on helping landowners and communities accomplish sound forestry practices on their land to achieve their stewardship objectives.”

As a service and outreach agency in the Warner College of Natural Resources at CSU, the Colorado State Forest Service remains committed to its core mission of achieving “stewardship of Colorado’s diverse forest environments for the benefit of present and future generations.” The forest management, applied research, education and outreach aspects of the CSFS remain with CSU and are fully available to agencies, organizations and landowners. The CSFS also will continue to provide technical assistance and outreach related to home and community protection from wildfires, through its State Office in Fort Collins and 17 districts around the state.

As in the past, CSU and the CSFS will continue to work closely with the Colorado Department of Natural Resources to achieve the greatest benefit for Colorado’s citizens.

“We will continue to offer every available resource to Colorado landowners to help them manage their forested lands and urban trees, and to ensure that they have the knowledge to fully prepare for future wildfires,” said Jeff Jahnke, state forester and director of the CSFS.

For more information about the recent transition and landowner resources related to forestry and wildfire mitigation, go to www.csfs.colostate.edu.

Invitation to attend San Juan Conservation District annual meeting featuring “FORESTRY”.

Fall Forest Forum

San Juan Conservation District Annual Meeting

Thursday, August 23rd - CSU Extension Office

- 9:00** **Welcome/District Accomplishments**
 - **John Taylor, SJCD VP**

- 9:30 –** **Come See the Future**
- 12:00** - **Biomass Project Site Tour—JR Ford**
 - **Chainsaw Safety & How to Fell a Tree**
 Dan McVeigh, WMPA

- 12:00** **FREE Lunch**
 Get Prepared
 - **Bill Trimarco, FireWise**

- 1:00** **What's Up in the Forest on Public Lands?**
 - **Scott Wagner, USFS**

- 2:00** **Let's Manage the Forest on Your Land**
 - **Dan Wand & Rich Edwards, CSFS**

Please RSVP to ensure there is plenty of food for all!



San Juan Conservation District

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Forestry in the 2012 Colorado Legislature (Legislative Summary provided by Mike Eckhoff)

Eight bills and one resolution were introduced this session. Two of the eight bills were killed in committee, and six bills were signed into law. A Senate Resolution was passed regarding renewable thermal energy, including heat produced from burning forest biomass.

Legend: “HB” stands for “House Bill,” or a bill that originated in the House of Representatives. “SB” stands for “Senate Bill,” or a bill that originated in the Senate. “SR” stands for “Senate Resolution,” which is a resolution that originated in the Senate.

A resolution differs from a bill in that it is an action by one legislative chamber relating solely to that chamber. Resolutions may pertain to the transaction of the business of that chamber, establish investigating committees composed of members of that chamber or express the will or sentiment of that chamber on any matter. For this year, the SR expresses support for creating a forest energy industry in Colorado.

The first number to follow “HB,” etc. is the year in which a bill was introduced. All bills listed will have a “12” because they were introduced during the 2012 session. The second number is the bill number. House bills, resolutions, etc, start at 1001. Senate bills, resolutions, etc. start at 001.

HB12-1004: The Colorado Timber Act

Summary: The bill requires county and municipal building codes to allow the use of lumber milled from lodgepole pine and Engelmann spruce trees having a grade of “stud” or better as building framing material. County and municipal building codes must also encourage the use of lumber milled from these trees for this purpose.

Status: Killed in committee on April 18.

Notes: This bill targeted regulations that do not exist.

HB12-1032: Continuation Forest Restoration Programs 5 Years

Summary: The bill continues the forest restoration program, and its associated funding from severance taxes, for 5 years and specifies that the program is no longer a pilot program. The bill also extends for 5 years the annual transfers from the operational account of the severance tax trust fund of \$1.45 million to the healthy forests and vibrant communities fund and \$50,000 to the wildland-urban interface training fund.

Status: Signed into law on March 24.

Notes: Without this bill, the program would have ended with the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

HB12-1045: Concerning Sales and Use Tax Exemptions for the Sale and Use of Wood from Trees Harvested in Colorado Damaged by Beetles

Summary: Wood wholesalers must certify on a Department of Revenue form that a product is lawfully harvested in Colorado and from a salvaged tree killed or infested by *spruce beetles*. The sales tax exemption for these timber products would run from July 1, 2012 to July 1, 2020. The bill also extends the sales and use tax exemption for the sale, storage, and use of wood from salvaged trees killed or infested in Colorado by *mountain pine beetles* until July 1, 2020.

Status: Signed into law on May 21.

Notes: Currently, the tax exemptions for MBP-wood products will expire July 1, 2013. This bill had stalled for two months after introduction but was picked up again in early April.

HB12-1283: Concerning the Department of Public Safety, and in Connection Therewith, Renaming and Reorganizing Certain Existing Entities

Summary: This bill consolidates homeland security functions of the state into the Department of Public Safety (DPS). This bill was amended after the Lower North Fork Fire so that all fire-related functions of the Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) would transfer to DPS.

Status: Signed into law on June 4.

Forestry in the 2012 Colorado Legislature (Continued)

HB12-1285: Cooperative Wildland Fire Mitigation

Summary: This bill modifies statutory requirements regarding intergovernmental cooperation for wildland fire mitigation where a municipality owns land inside a county for utility purposes.

Status: Signed into law on April 6.

HB12-1352: Creation of a State Commission to Address Matters arising out of the Lower North Fork Wildfire

Summary: This bill creates a commission to study the causes of the Lower North Fork Wildfire and to develop recommendations for preventing similar events from happening again. The commission will consist of five people: Two from the House, two from the Senate and the executive director from the Department of Public Safety. Their report is due by year's end.

Status: Signed into law on June 4.

HB12-1361: Concerning Claims Against the State Arising Under the "Colorado Governmental Immunity Act"

Summary: This bill eliminates the state's immunity from damages sustained by citizens due to prescribed fire. It also lifts the \$600,000 per event / \$150,000 per person cap and specifies how citizens who sustained damages could receive additional compensation beyond specified limits.

Status: Signed into law on June 4

SB12-180: Colorado Forest Energy Jobs Act

Summary: This bill encouraged the promotion and development of forest management policy tools and incentives for sustaining a forest energy industry in Colorado. The bill also would create a "Colorado Thermal Energy Work Group" to examine renewable heating technologies available in the state (and not just using wood heat).

Status: Killed in committee on May 1.

Notes: This bill was designed to foster a forest energy industry based, in part, on recommendation drafted by the Colorado Forest Biomass Use Work Group (A group created by the legislature in June 2011). This bill likely suffered from a case of "too much, too late" in the session. Of note, its fiscal note (cost to state government) approached \$2 million, a substantial sum and even more so for a shaky economy.

Although the fiscal note is no longer posted on the General Assembly website, one can download it here: http://www.statebillinfo.com/bills/fiscal/12/SB180_00.pdf.

SR12-003: Concerning Measures to Create Colorado Jobs by Encouraging Active Forest management for Healthy Forest Ecosystems and the Use of Colo. Forest Biomass as a source of Renewable Energy

Summary: This bill requests the Colorado State Forest Service, the Colorado Economic Development Commission, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Governor's Energy Office to work towards promoting and/or developing opportunities for sustainable forest management that can support a forest energy industry.

Status: Signed by the President of the Senate on May 16.

Notes: This resolution is a passable alternative (read: the next best alternative) to the failed **SB12-180** (see above) and could serve as "template" or "blueprint" for legislation to be introduced in a future year or years.

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Knowledge to Go Places

Websites:

CSFS = www.csfs.colostate.edu

National Tree Farm = www.treefarmssystem.org

State Tree Farm = www.treefarmer.com

Colorado Wood Utilization & Marketing =
www.colostate.edu/programs/cowood/

**Upper San Juan Mixed - Conifer Working Group : Final Report
now available at <http://ocs.fortlewis.edu/mixedconifer/>**

The working group started in the fall of 2010 and is focusing on the warm and cool mixed-conifer forests in the Pagosa Ranger District, which is a unit of the San Juan Public Lands in Southwest Colorado. The charge to the diverse stakeholder group is to participate in a year-long working group process that includes education, speakers and field trips, along with public meetings, facilitated dialogue and consensus-building. The goal is a shared vision for management of the mixed-conifer forests tied with concrete actions and recommendations.

Three roles for the future of the Working Group have emerged:

1. Continued education for key stakeholders and the general public.
2. Continued existence but with a less frequent meeting schedule to provide feedback on new projects. Keeping the Web site active for the next phase. Expanding the focus to other vegetation types, particularly ponderosa pine. Developing more of a watershed focus. Explore hiring a coordinator for Phase II.
3. Promoting adaptive management through a process of project review, coupled with monitoring and evaluation of effects of implementation, and fed back into planning and design of similar, upcoming projects.

Please visit the website to view the final report and more info.

Definitions of Common Terms used in Forestry

Basal Area (BA): The cross-sectional area of tree, usually measured at breast height (4.5 feet above ground level), inclusive of bark, expressed in square feet. Basal area per acre is a common expression of timber density or stocking.

Canopy: The continuous cover of branches and foliage formed collectively by the crowns of adjacent trees or other woody growth. Layers or different levels may be distinguished within the canopy.

Crown: Live branches and foliage of a tree; the upper portion of a tree.

Diameter Breast Height (DBH): The diameter of the trunk of a tree at 4.5 feet above average ground level.

Overstory: That portion of a stand of more than one story that forms the uppermost canopy layer

Understory: The portion of the trees or other vegetation in a forest stand below the main canopy.

Stand: A group of trees possessing sufficient uniformity of characteristics such as composition, age, spatial arrangement, or condition, to be distinguished from adjacent communities, so forming a management entity.